



CHITKULI VERB INFLECTION 101

ZOOMDEMIC 2.0

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OUTLINE OF THIS PRESENTATION

- ❖ Verb Inflection
- ❖ Agreement
- ❖ Chitkuli Agreement
 - Subject Verb agreement
 - Object Verb agreement
- ❖ Morphology of Copula
- ❖ Chitkuli Inflection
 - Tense
 - Aspect
 - Mood
 - Agreement features



QUESTIONS?

❖ INFLECTION

“When we change the form of a word so that it fits in a particular grammatical context, we are concerned with what linguists call inflection” (Lieber 2009: 7)

❖ Verb Inflections

- Tense, Aspect, Mood, Agreement...

“**She sings** in the college chorus”

“**They sing** in the college chorus”

❖ AGREEMENT

“Agreement commonly refers to some systematic covariance between a semantic or formal property of one element and a formal property of another” (Steele 1978: 610)



She sings in the college chorus
3SG 3SG

They sing in the college chorus
3PL 3PL

lərke-ko nə-i kəmiz mil-i
boy.OBL-DAT new shirt get
M.SG F.SG F.SG F.SG
“Yesterday the boy got a new shirt”

lərke-ko nə-ja pədʒama mil-a
boy.OBL-DAT new pyjama get
M.SG M.SG M.SG M.SG
“Yesterday the boy got a new pyjama”

CONTROLLER: the element which determines agreement

TARGET: the element whose form is determined by agreement

AGREEMENT FEATURES :features in respect to which there is agreement.

They are inherent on controller and contextual on target



AGREEMENT FEATURES

- [GENDER] : Masculine, Feminine...
- Gender assignment on residue nouns based on:
 - SEMANTICS
Strict semantic system (eg. Kannada) – 3 (Masculine, Feminine, Neuter)
appa “father”- Masculine; amma “mother” – Feminine; na:ji “dog” – Neuter
 - FORM
(eg. Qafar where formal assignment based on a phonological form)
Residue nouns whose citation form ends in an accented vowel- Feminine,
every other noun- Masculine
gilàl “winter”, támu “taste”- Masculine; karmà “autumn”- Feminine

(Corbett 2006)



- Another kind of gender assignment system is the Predominantly semantic assignment system

Masculine -Overall default for animates, trade items, some types of honey, rain, some lower animate, Male higher animates, compass point, some items used in painting...	Feminine - female higher animals, some lower animates, sun...
Neuter - most parts of animals and plants, some parts of the landscape, weather, sea, time measures, language and speech, country, place-based social categories...	Vegetable – plants and their products(including life form terms), song, ceremony, custom, fire, food, vegetable, some types of honey, boats, planes, cars...

Fig: the semantics of gender in Kunwinjku (Evans, Brown & Corbett 2002 in Corbett 2006)



AGREEMENT FEATURES

- [GENDER] : Masculine, Feminine, Neuter...
- [PERSON] : First Person (inclusive/exclusive), Second Person, Third Person (obviate/proximate)...
- [NUMBER] : Singular, Plural, Dual, Trial, Paucal...

Joan Bybee (1985) found that in a sample of about fifty languages:

gender : 16%

number : 54 %

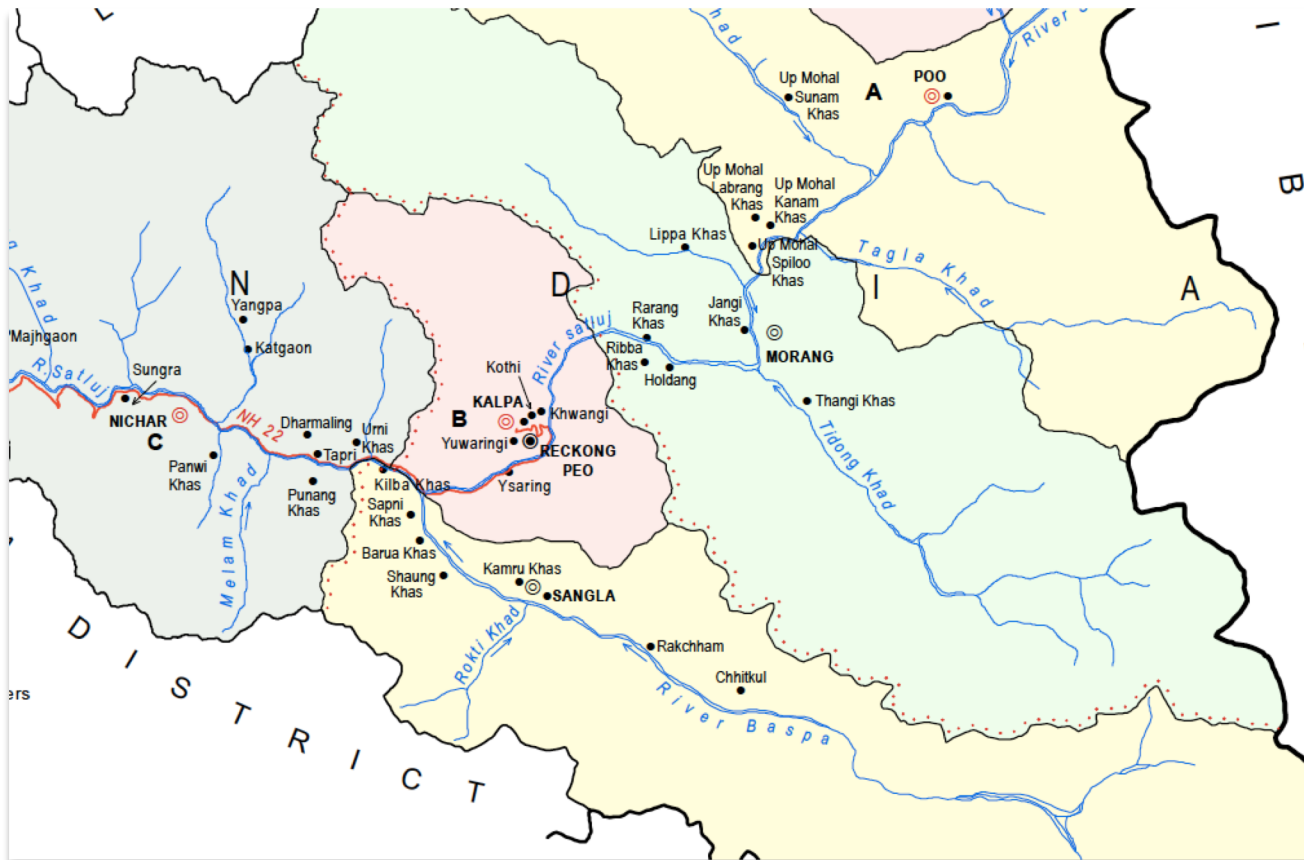
person : 56 %

- [HONORIFICITY] : present /absent

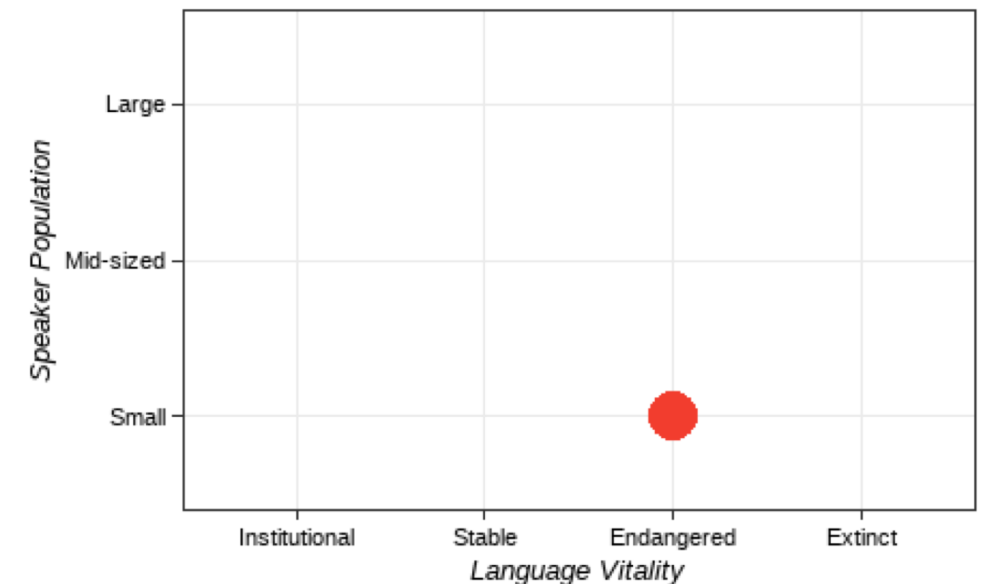


CHITKULI (CHITKULI KINNAURI)

- Classification: Tibeto-Burman>Bodish>Western Himalayish
- ISO 639-3 (cik)



Size and vitality of Chitkuli Kinnauri



(Ethnologue)

(DISTRICT CENSUS Handbook- Kinnaur 2011)



- Data collected based primarily on an adaptation of the TMA questionnaire (Dahl 1985) and Basic Sentence List (Abbi 2001) : Interview method
- Primary Speaker (41) : from Chitkul (spent almost 16 years) before moving out for education, job
- Script- Devanagari is presently used
- Primary education is given in Hindi and standard Kinnauri (Chitkul, Sangla)
- Language use- songs during rituals and festivals, meetings, communication with parents
- They have a lot of respect for the language, Chitkuli marks their identity, culture
- Flaich is the most important festival of Sangla and it commemorates the onset of winter. It is a 'flower festival' where every village sends out people to collect flowers. The village deity is prayed to in this festival using these flowers. The community shares a very strong association with nature and are fairly religious



CHITKULI AGREEMENT MORPHOLOGY

- ❖ Chitkuli is an SOV language
- ❖ Displays both subject-verb and object-verb agreement
- ❖ Verb inflections are built in the language on the verb root
- Verbal Features that the Chitkuli verbs inflect for
 - TENSE : Past, Future (Present has no overt inflectional marking)
 - ASPECT : Imperfective, Perfective, Progressive, Habitual
 - MOOD : Epistemic, Imperative, Deontic, Ability
- ❖ Agreement features
 - PERSON: First, Second, Third
 - NUMBER: Singular, Dual, Plural
 - HONORIFICITY: either present or absent



CHITKULI VERB INFLECTION TEMPLATE

Template one:

V _R -	_____	+	_____	+	_____
OBJ		+	Tense.AGR	+	AGR
OBJ		+	Mood	+	AGR
OBJ		+	Aspect		
Tense		+	AGR		
Mood		+	AGR		
Aspect					
Mood					

Template two:

COP	+	_____	+	_____
COP	+	Tense.AGR	+	AGR
COP	+	Tense	+	AGR
COP	+	Aspect		



MORPHOLOGY OF COPULA

- *to-* : (physical proximity, familiarity with the speaker) : HIGH
- *du-* : (physical proximity, familiarity with the speaker) : VERY LOW/ NIL
- *ni-* : degree of confidence on judgement : LOW

(1) kin	atɛ	dilli junivɛrsiti-o	tʰə
your	brother.3M.SG.HON	delhi university.N-in.LOC	what.Q
lən-t̃s	to-ke-ʃ?		
do.V-IPFV	be-PST-3SG.HON		

“What did your brother do here in Delhi University?” (last year)

(2) vali	vəʃən	oms	ti	val	lis	du-ge
many	year	back	water.N	very.ADV	cold.ADJ	be-PST

“Many years back the water was very cold” (talking about a water body)

(3) gə	nəsəm	kimm-o	hi	ni-tə-k
I.1M.SG	tomorrow	house-in.LOC	only	be.EPIS-FUT.1SG-1SG

“(Most probably) I will stay at home” (plan for tomorrow)



■ SUBJECT – VERB AGREEMENT

(4)

aŋɛ

tʃi^{hi}

tʃe-o-ʃ

He.3M.SG.HON

letter.N

write.V-PST-3SG.HON

“He (speaker’s elder brother) wrote letters

Subject Agreement			
	SG	DU	PL
1	-k	-tʃ	-tʃ
2 (-HON)	-n	-tʃ	-tʃ
2 (+HON)	-ĩ	-tʃ	-tʃ
3 (-HON)	ϕ	ϕ	ϕ
3 (+HON)	-ʃ	-ʃ	-ʃ

(5)

nəsəm

ʃer

gi-tə-k

Tomorrow

town.N

go.V-FUT.1SG-1SG

“I will go to town tomorrow”

■ OBJECT – VERB AGREEMENT

(6)

gə

kinno

nəsəm

kaʈɛja-tʃ-o-k

I.1F.SG

you.2SG.ACC/DAT

tomorrow

bite.V-OBJ-FUT-1SG

“I will bite you tomorrow” (child tells brother while asking for a toy)

Object Agreement
-tʃ



TENSE

- Tense is “a grammatical category referring to the location of situations in time” (Comrie 1985)
- Understand tense in terms of Reichenbach’s (1947) theory based on E (point of Event), S (point of Speech) and R (point of Reference). Implementing this theory by logically structuring E, S and R with reference to linear time axis enables a precise description of the eventuality of time in the language
- Chitkuli has an overt marking for two values of Tense, i.e. Past and Future, while Present is unmarked
- **A. Past tense** (E precedes S)
 - verbal inflection: -o
 - copula construction: to the copula to, -*ke* attaches and to the copula du, -*ge* attaches
- **B. Hodiernal Past Tense** (E precedes S) – more specifically just a few hours before S
 - Verb inflection: - *gja*



C. Future Tense (E follows S)

- If the verbal base ends in tʃ or ʃ : attach -o; then subject agreement inflection is added
- Else, an inflection from the following table is chosen; then add subject marker is added

(7) əmma k^hau lan-ti-ʃ
 mother.3SG.HON food.N do.V-FUT.3SG.HON-3SG.HON
 “Mother will make the food”

(8) aŋɛ tʃi^hi tʃe-o-ʃ
 He.3M.SG.HON letter.N write.V-PST-3SG.HON
 “He (speaker’s elder brother) wrote letters”

(9) aŋɛ bənnu-gja
 he.3M.SG come.INF.V-H.PST
 “He came” (talking to sister on the way back from a wedding)

(10) radʒa oms hi bəbə to-ke-ʃ
 king.3M.SG.HON back only come.V.PFV be-PST-3SG.HON
 “The king already arrived” (reply to an enquiry about the king’s expected arrival)

(11) nu niʃke dɔktər du-φ-φ
 they two.DU doctor.N be-PRS-3DU
 “They both are doctors”

Future tense			
	SG	DU	PL
1	-tə	-ti	-tə
2 (-HON)	-ta	-ti	-ti
2 (+HON)	-ta	-ti	-ti
3 (-HON)	to	to	to
3 (+HON)	-ti	-ti	-ti

Subject Agreement			
	SG	DU	PL
1	-k	-tʃ	-tʃ
2 (-HON)	-n	-tʃ	-tʃ
2 (+HON)	-ĩ	-tʃ	-tʃ
3 (-HON)	φ	φ	φ
3 (+HON)	-ʃ	-ʃ	-ʃ



ASPECT

- “Aspects are different ways of viewing the internal temporal constituency of a situation” (Comrie 1976)
- Aspect meaning results from two components ‘situation-type’ and ‘viewpoint’- Two point theory in the Discourse Representation Theory (Smith 1997)
 - Situation type- conveyed more abstractly by the verb (Achievement, Activity, States...)
 - Viewpoint- indicated morphologically on the verb (Perfective, Imperfective, Neutral)
- Chitkuli has four values for the feature Aspect. They are Perfective, Imperfective, Progressive and Habitual

A. Perfective : focus on a situation in entirety, including both initial and final endpoints (Smith 1997)

- verb inflection *-is* is attached if the verb root ends in -tʃ or -ʃ
- else, a reduplication of the final syllable of the verb root

(12) gə	kəĩ barəŋ	tʃukʃ-is
I.1M.SG	many times	meet.V-PFV

“I have met him many times” (reply to enquiry about knowing the speaker’s brother)

(13) gə	sja rupeja-o	tʃe	dʒog-dʒog
I.1M.SG	ten rupees-in	all.ADJ	buy.V.PFV

“I bought everything for ten rupees”



B. Imperfective : focus on part of the situation, including neither initial nor final endpoints (Smith 1997)

➤ *-id* is attached to the verb root if it ends in the consonant $-tʃ, ʃ$

➤ else $-tʃ̃$ is attached to the verb root

(14) ti	lis	ni- $tʃ̃$
water.N	cold.ADJ	be.EPIS-IPFV

“The water is cold” (looks like it, not sure)

(15) doæn	k ^h jərən-is	hatʃ-id
curd.N	milk-INS	happen.V-IPFV

“Curd is made from milk”

C. Habitual : describes situations which are characteristic of an extended period of time, so extended that the situation is viewed as a characteristic feature of a whole period (Kidwai 2013)

➤ *-t* is attached to the verb root if it ends in a vowel

➤ else, *-it* is attached



(16) gə	djari som	tʃe bədʒɛ	səstʃ-it
I.1M.SG	daily morning	six o'clock	rise.V-HAB

“I rise at six in the morning” (talking about daily habit)

(17) səpɛ	aŋo	djari	pore-t
Snake	me.ACC/DAT	daily	get.V-HAB

“I see a snake daily” (talking about a habitual incident)

D. **Progressive** : an ongoing event or action that is in a state of progress and limited to non-stative events (Kidwai 2013)

- if the verb root ends in a consonant sound, then -o is attached to it
- else *-do* is attached to the verb root

(18) it	tʃʰəŋ-rəŋ	it	tʃʰetʃʰats̃	bjarəŋ	səðəŋ-o	joŋtʃ-o
one	boy.N-with	one	girl.N	outside	road-on.LOC	play.V-PROG

du- ϕ
be-PRS.3PL

“A boy and a girl are playing on the road” (the speaker is narrating what he sees from his window)

(19) aŋe	tʰə	suntʃe-do	to-ʃ
he.3M.SG.HON	what.Q	think.V-PROG	be-3SG.HON

“What is he thinking?”



MOOD

- “Mood is concerned with the actuality of an event. There are three different parameters (values) that are used by languages while establishing modal distinctions:
 - (i) a speaker’s opinion or judgement regarding the actuality of an event,
 - (ii) kind of evidence that is available for the speaker to form this judgement,
 - (iii) kind of need or requirement which forces the speaker (or someone else) to get involved in an event (or to carry out an action)...” (Palmer 1986), (Bhat 1999)
- Chitkuli has four values for the feature Mood. They are Imperative, Epistemic, Deontic and Ability

A. **Imperative** : Imperative mood is mood that signals directive modality, especially in commands. Its use may be extended to signal permission (SIL Glossary of Linguistic Terms)

Imperative Mood- Chitkuli			
2SG.Imperative	2DU.Imperative	2PL.Imperative	2HON
-ra	-ritʃ	-ritʃ	-rəĩ

(20) gə	bədʒ-tək	nɪʃke	tʃitʰi	tʃetʃe	tã-ritʃ
I.1M.SG	return-till	you two.DU	letter.N	write.V.PFV	keep.V-IMP.2DU

“By the time I return, you two write the letter” (ordered by the teacher)



B. Epistemic : "an evaluation of the chances that a certain hypothetical state of affairs under consideration (or some aspect of it) will occur, is occurring, or has occurred in a possible world which serves as the universe of interpretation for the evaluation process" (Nuyts 2001)

➤ Chitkuli employs a particular variant of the "be" copula: *ni-*

(21) aŋɛ	tʃiɪtʰi	tʃe-o	ni-ti-ʃ
he.3M.SG.HON	letter.N	write.V-PROG	be.EPIS-FUT.3SG.HON-3SG.HON

"He (big brother) would be writing a letter"

C. Deontic : "connotes the speaker's degree of requirement of desire for, or commitment to the realization of the proposition expressed by the utterance" (SIL Glossary of Linguistic Terms)

▪ Chitkuli employs the use of the exponent *-tseja/-seja*

(22) aŋo	i dɔʒar ta	tʃukʃumu-bimu-sejã
me.ACC/DAT	someday certainly	meet.INF-go.INF-DEO

"I will have to meet him some time or the other"

D. Ability: indicates the speaker's ability to perform a certain task or proposition as expressed in the utterance

▪ Chitkuli employs the use of the exponent *-həns*

(23) lisk-es	tʃʰetʃʰa	tʃjamu-mʰə-həns	du-ϕ
cold-INS	girl.N	write.INF-NEG-A.MOD	be.PRS.3SG

"She not able to write because of the cold"



SOME CATEGORIES WITH SEMANTIC RELEVANCE

▪ Causative construction

(24) əmma-s tʃʰəŋ-o kʰjərən pil-a-o-ʃ
mother-ERG child-ACC/DAT milk.N fed-CAUS-PST-3SG.HON

“Mother fed milk to the child”

▪ Negation

(25) əjən bən tʰə-tã-ra
here leg.N PHB-keep.V.IMP.2SG

“Don’t put your leg!” (there is a puddle ahead and the speaker asks his son to not put his leg in it!)

(26) nəsem kəʃəno kəməl mə-lənno
tomorrow we.1PL.ACC/DAT work.N NEG-do.V.INF

“Tomorrow we all don’t have to work” (according to the circular and the said contract)

(27) məni-məni gə aŋɛ-rən kəbʰi mʰa-tʃukʃi-k
no-no I.F.SG him-with anytime NEG-meet.V-1SG

“No-no I haven’t been able to meet him”



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